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Viewing cable 06NEWDELHI27, GOI DECLINES A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SRI LANKAN

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Discussing cables

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000027

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/06/2016
TAGS: PREL PGOV PTER MASS CE IN
SUBJECT: GOI DECLINES A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SRI LANKAN
PEACE PROCESS

REF: NEW DELHI 8892

Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

11. (C) Summary: Mahinda Rajapakse's December 27-30 trip to India stimulated the public debate about the Sri Lankan President's call for a moratorium on violence. The trip was seen as a sign of a shift in the government's policy towards the Tamil Tigers. The government had previously been seen as hardline, but the trip was seen as a move towards a more moderate approach. The trip was also seen as a sign of a shift in the government's policy towards the Tamil Tigers. The government had previously been seen as hardline, but the trip was seen as a move towards a more moderate approach.

12. (U) Sri Lanka's newly elected President Mahinda Rajapakse emphasized the importance of bilateral relations by making his first visit abroad to the United States.

13. (C) MEA's Sri Lanka Desk Officer Anupam Rae reported that in its meetings with President Rajapakse, the GOI stressed the importance of mai

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GSL concessions before returning to further talks, and is not about to start a "fight to the finish." Noting that Rajapakse is very sharp, F
Merely Fulfilling Campaign Promises?

44. (C) Since Rajapakse campaigned on the need for a more active Indian role in the peace process, media reports predicted that he would make

15. (C) MEA's Rae emphasized that the question of India's role was the "major issue" of the visit, although he speculated that Rajapakse kne

16. (C) At a December 29 reception for Mahinda, Sri Lankan analyst and Prabhakaran biographer M.R. Narayan Swamy spoke to the President's brother. India's Tamils Protest Rajapakse's Visit

17. (C) India is also bound by the political sensitivities among its approximately 60 million strong Tamil population. MEA's Rae conceded that

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Government of Sri Lanka, Swamy suggested that it is particularly difficult for India publicly to support Rajapakse's Sinhalese nationalist "un

18. (C) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha demonstrated Indian Tamil sensitivities when she canceled her meeting with President Rajapaksa

Comment: Tamil Politics and Violence Tip the Scales

- ¶9. (C) In light of New Delhi's increasing concern about the peace process in Sri Lanka and calls from some strategists for a more muscular Ir
- ¶10. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website: (<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)

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